

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

BUNKER HILL  
Kellogg, Idaho



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

February 2000

## Protecting Communities Over the Long-Term: *Cleanup Reviews and Pilot Study of Indoor Dust*

### EPA Begins Evaluation of Cleanup in "Non-populated Areas"

Last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Idaho began the Five-Year Review for the cleanup of the populated areas at Bunker Hill. We are now conducting the Five-Year Review for the cleanup in the non-populated areas.

You may recall that the Five-Year Review is a requirement of the Superfund program which calls for EPA to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of cleanup activities to ensure that those activities are protective of human health and the environment.

The non-populated areas Five-Year Review is specifically aimed at evaluating the cleanup remedies outlined in the 1992 Record of Decision (ROD) for the following areas:

- Smelterville Flats
- Hillsides
- Central Impoundment Area (CIA)
- Mine Operations Area
- Central Treatment Plant
- Grouse Gulch
- Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way
- Page Ponds
- Upper Milo
- Smelter Complex (McKinley Avenue, Lead Smelter, Zinc Plant/Phosphate Plant, Gulches, A4 Gypsum Pond)

The populated area Five-Year Review will evaluate the remedy for cleaning up the local communities. Work is focused on the durability and effectiveness of the clean soil barriers that have been installed in residential yards and commercial properties.

### Assessing Cleanup Actions

Each of the areas above will be looked at to determine how the cleanup remedy is performing, identify any issues or problems, identify steps taken to correct problems, and note any deficiencies that prevent the remedy from being protective or that may indicate a potential for failure in the future. The review will also evaluate whether cleanup actions have been implemented in accordance with the ROD, whether performance standards have been achieved in areas where cleanup is complete, and whether changes are needed to meet the performance standards and cleanup goals.

The Five-Year Reviews will also look at these additional issues:

- 1) Have conditions external to the remedy changed since the remedy was selected (e.g., land use changes, new contaminants, sources, or pathways, or new site conditions or data)?
- 2) Is there any new information related to the Applicable Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) that could call into question the protectiveness of the performance standards and cleanup goals?

3) What is the potential for recontamination due to actions of the river, hillsides, traffic/dust and other factors?

### **Opportunities for Input**

When the Five-Year Reviews are complete, EPA will produce two draft reports of its findings. When the draft reports are complete, you will be notified and will have an opportunity to comment on the findings and recommendations. Both draft Five-Year Review reports -- the Populated Areas and Non-Populated Areas reports -- are expected to be available for public review in April. Outlines of the topics to be covered in each of the Five-Year Reviews is available at the information repositories or on EPA's website.

### **Pilot Study of House Dust in Smelterville this Summer**

A priority at Bunker Hill has been cleaning up residential yards to protect children from exposure to unsafe levels of lead. Cleaning up contaminated yards also has reduced a significant source contributing to lead in interior household dust. While lead in household dust

is a concern, controlling exterior sources has been our primary focus. House dust levels have dropped from 1,324 parts per million (ppm) in 1988 to 547 ppm in 1999. Additional work is needed, however, to reach the site-wide goal of 500 ppm lead or less.

This summer, EPA and the State of Idaho will conduct a pilot study evaluating the effectiveness of different cleaning methods in reducing lead levels in indoor dust. The project will be focused in Smelterville at residences where yard cleanups have already occurred. Dust samples will be taken immediately before and after the cleaning is done as well as six and 12 months after, to determine the longer term effectiveness of the cleaning methods. The project will be conducted during summer or early fall because this is when the most dust enters homes. We also hope to correlate the indoor dust data with the blood lead and other dust data collected by the State of Idaho and the Panhandle Health District each summer and early fall.

If you would like to review the workplan for the pilot study, please visit the information repositories or EPA's website.

### **Need More Information?**

If you have questions, please call Marianne Deppman, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator in Seattle, at 1-800-424-4372 or at (206) 553-1237, or Sean Sheldrake, EPA Project Manager, at (206) 553-1220. You can also contact Jerry Cobb at the Panhandle Health District in Kellogg at (208) 783-0707.

Site-related documents are available for review at the following locations:

- Kellogg Public Library: 16 West Market, Kellogg, ID 83837 (contains the Administrative Record)
- Pinehurst/Kingston Library: 107 Main Street, Pinehurst, ID 83850
- EPA Region 10 Records Center: 1200 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

Or you can call or visit the Superfund Project Office at 1005 McKinley Avenue in Kellogg (208) 783-5781.

Or visit the EPA Region 10 webpage at: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>

*To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the numbers listed above.*



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